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Date: July 10, 2003 Label No. EV306612358 US

I hereby certify that, on the date indicated above, I deposited this paper with identified attachments and/or fee with the U.S. Postal Service and that it was addressed for delivery to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 by "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service.

Ashley Smith  
Name (Print)

Ashley Smith  
Signature

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7/23/03  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

BENTON et al.

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Application No.: 10/076,209

Examiner: Unassigned

Filed: February 14, 2002

For: DRILLING FLUIDS CONTAINING AN ALKALI METAL FORMATE

RECEIVED  
JUL 15 2003  
GROUP 1700

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

Mail Stop DD  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

July 10, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted after expiration of the three-month period following filing of the above-captioned application, but before an Office Action on the merits and before any Final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.

Should a first Office Action cross in the mail with the filing of this Supplemental Information Disclosure statement, then applicants respectfully petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) to consider the documents set forth in the Information Disclosure Statement.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/076,209

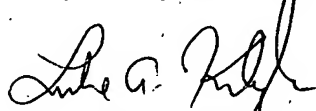
requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to Deposit Account No. 03-0060 and please consider this a petition.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: PTO-1449, w/ 30 Documents